



CLASS (When Filed In)

ROUTINE

STATE/NSC/XCS/MC (DIA) CIA/PAUCC SWS NSA TREAS NSC/S SDO NIO CRS PAGE 1 OF 3 PAGES

DIRECTORATE OF OPERATIONS

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SECRET

DIST 18 NOVEMBER 1978

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1. ACCORDING TO [REDACTED]

PRESIDENT AUGUSTO PINOCHET CONCEIVED THE IDEA OF
RELEASING MOST OF THE POLITICAL DETAINEES HELD UNDER THE PROVISIONS
OF THE STATE OF SIEGE. [REDACTED] SAID THAT ABOUT 15-20
AGO. PINOCHET CALLED IN [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] TO DISCUSS THE IDEA. [REDACTED] AGREED WITH THE
PROPOSAL, BUT THE RELEASE WAS DELAYED BECAUSE SOME CIVILIAN

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ADVISORS (NOT IDENTIFIED) PRESENTED ACTIVE OPPOSITION. IN THIS CONTEXT, [REDACTED] STATED THAT SOME CIVILIANS WHO CLAIM TO BE TRYING TO HELP THE GOVERNMENT ARE ACTUALLY WORKING AT CROSS PURPOSES. WHEN QUERIED SPECIFICALLY AS TO WHETHER [REDACTED] WAS ONE

OF THESE, [REDACTED] REFUSED TO COMMENT.

2. [REDACTED] AND PRESIDENT PINOCHET UNDERSTAND THAT THEY ARE TAKING A CERTAIN RISK IN RELEASING THE POLITICAL DETAINEES, SINCE SOME OF THEM ARE MEMBERS OF THE MOVEMENT OF THE REVOLUTIONARY LEFT (MIR) AND MIGHT AGAIN BECOME INVOLVED IN ANTI-GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES. [REDACTED]

3. [REDACTED] COMMENTS [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] REPORTED THE FORMATION OF THE ASEP IN OCTOBER 1975, AND THE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION BETWEEN ASEP MEMBERS AND THE CIVILIAN ADVISORS OVER BASIC POLICY QUESTIONS SUCH AS THE GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (POC) AND THE CATHOLIC CHURCH,

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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WITH THE CIVILIANS CONSISTENTLY PRESSING FOR THE HARDEST LINE. 1.5 (C)
THE ASEP MEMBERS ARE GENERALS CESAR B E N E V I D E S,
MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (HERNANDEZ), A RE S, MINISTER SECRETARY
GENERAL OF THE PRESIDENCY, SERGIO COVARRUBIAS, CHIEF
OF THE CABINET, AND PATRICIO TORRES, CHIEF OF THE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE TO THE JUNTA (COAJ) (AND COLONEL CONTRERAS.)
[REDACTED]

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